

# Sūrah Al-Muzzammil

## (The Wrapped up one)

This Sūrah is Makki, and it has 20 verses and 2 Sections.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

With the name of Allah, the All-Merciful, the Very-Merciful

### Verses 1-20

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُزَّمِّلُ ﴿١﴾ قُمْ اللَّيْلَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿٢﴾ نِّصْفَهُ أَوْ انْقُصْ مِنْهُ قَلِيلًا ﴿٣﴾  
 أَوْزِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا ﴿٤﴾ إِنَّا سَنُلْقِيْ عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا  
 ثَقِيلًا ﴿٥﴾ إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْأً وَأَقْوَمُ قِيلًا ﴿٦﴾ إِنَّ لَكَ فِي  
 النَّهَارِ سَبْحًا طَوِيلًا ﴿٧﴾ وَادْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ وَتَبَتَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَبْتِيلًا ﴿٨﴾  
 رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا ﴿٩﴾ وَاصْبِرْ  
 عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَاهْجُرْهُمْ هَجْرًا جَمِيلًا ﴿١٠﴾ وَذَرْنِي وَالْمُكَذِّبِينَ  
 أُولِي النَّعْمَةِ وَمَهِّلْهُمْ قَلِيلًا ﴿١١﴾ إِنَّ لَدَيْنَا أَنْكَالًا وَجَحِيمًا ﴿١٢﴾  
 وَطَعَامًا ذَا غُصَّةٍ وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا ﴿١٣﴾ يَوْمَ تَرْجُفُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ  
 وَكَانَتْ الْجِبَالُ كَثِيبًا مَّهِيلًا ﴿١٤﴾ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ رَسُولًا ۖ  
 شَاهِدًا عَلَيْكُمْ كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ رَسُولًا ﴿١٥﴾ فَعَصَىٰ فِرْعَوْنُ  
 الرَّسُولَ فَاخَذْنَاهُ أَخْدًا وَبَيًّا ﴿١٦﴾ فَكَيْفَ تَتَّقُونَ إِنْ كَفَرْتُمْ يَوْمًا  
 يَجْعَلُ الْوِلْدَانَ شِيبًا ﴿١٧﴾ ۝ السَّمَاءُ مُنْفَطِرٌ بِهِ ۗ كَانَ وَعْدُهُ مَفْعُولًا

﴿١٨﴾ إِنَّ هَذِهِ تَذْكِرَةٌ ۖ فَمَنْ شَاءَ اتَّخَذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا ﴿١٩﴾ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُومُ أَدْنَىٰ مِنْ ثُلُثِي اللَّيْلِ وَنِصْفَهُ وَثُلُثَهُ وَطَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ مَعَكَ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يُقَدِّرُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ ۗ عَلِمَ أَنْ لَّنْ نَّحْصُوهُ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ ۗ عَلِمَ أَنْ سَيَكُونُ مِنْكُمْ مَّرْضَىٰ ۚ وَآخَرُونَ يَضْرِبُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَبْتَغُونَ مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ ۚ وَآخَرُونَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۚ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنْهُ ۚ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَاقْرَأُوا اللَّهَ قُرْآنًا حَسَنًا ۗ وَمَا تَقَدَّمُوا لِنَفْسِكُمْ مِّنْ خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ هُوَ خَيْرٌ وَأَعْظَمَ أَجْرًا ۗ وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا لِلَّهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿٢٠﴾

O you wrapped up in clothes,\* [1] stand at night (for prayer) except a little [2] half of it, or make it a little less, [3] or make it a little more; and recite the Qur'an clearly with *tartil* (in a distinct and measured tone). [4] We are going to send down to you a weighty discourse. [5] Truly, rising by night (for prayer of *tahajjud*) is the most effective way to subdue (one's self) and to make speech more upright. [6] Surely, in daytime, you have a lengthy work to do. [7] And remember the name of your Lord, and devote yourself to Him with exclusive devotion. [8] He is the Lord of the East and the West; there is no god but He; so take Him for (your) Guardian. [9] And bear patiently what they say, and part with them in a beautiful manner. [10] And leave Me (to deal) with the deniers, the people of luxury, and give them respite for a while. [11] Surely with Us are fetters and

\* The Holy Prophet ﷺ is addressed in this verse with reference to a particular style of wrapping himself in his clothes. The first event of this kind occurred when the Holy Prophet ﷺ received first revelation in the cave of Hira'. Being his first experience, he felt it very hard, and was caught by a shivery cold, and once he reached home, he asked his blessed wife Khadijah رضي الله عنها to wrap him in a blanket which she did. Some narrations have reported another event: When the Holy Prophet ﷺ was accused, by the pagans of Makkah, of being a magician who separated between friends, he felt aggrieved, and wrapped himself in his clothes out of grief. Addressing him with reference to these events is a loving style adopted by Allah Ta'ala to console him. (Muhammad Taqi Usmani)

flaming fire, [12] and food that chokes, and a painful punishment, [13] on the Day when the earth and the mountains will quake, and the mountains will turn into a slipping heap of sand. [14] We have sent to you a messenger, as a witness over you, just as We sent a messenger to Fir'aun (the Pharaoh). [15] Then, Fir'aun disobeyed the messenger; so We seized him with a severe seizure. [16] So, if you disbelieve, how will you save yourself from a day that will turn the small boys into grey-headed old men, [17] whereby the sky will burst apart. His promise has to be fulfilled. [18] Indeed, this is a reminder; so let anyone who so wishes, adopt a way to his Lord. [19]

Your Lord knows that you stand (in prayer) for nearly two thirds of the night, and (at times) for half of it, and (at times) for one third of it, and (so do) a group of those who are with you. And Allah measures the night and the day. He knows that you cannot do it regularly, therefore He turned to you in mercy. Now, recite as much of the Qur'ān as is easy (for you). He knows that some of you may be sick, and others travelling in the land, seeking the grace of Allah, and yet others fighting in Allah's way. Therefore, recite as much of it as is easy. And establish *ṣalāh*, and pay *zakāh*, and advance to Allah a goodly loan. And whatever good you will send ahead for your own selves, you will find it with Allah much better in condition, and much greater in reward. And seek forgiveness from Allah. Indeed Allah is Most-Forgiving, Very-Merciful. [20]

### Commentary

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَزْمَلُ 'O you wrapped up in clothes [73:1]'. The word *muzzammil* literally means 'one wrapped up in clothes' and its near-synonym '*muddaththir*' comes in the next Sūrah. The Holy Prophet ﷺ is addressed in this verse with reference to a particular style of wrapping himself in his clothes. The first event of this kind occurred when the Holy Prophet ﷺ received first revelation in the cave of Ḥirā'. Being his first experience, he felt it very hard, and was caught by a shivery cold, and once he reached home, he asked his blessed wife Khadījah رضى الله عنها to wrap him in a blanket which she did. A detailed account of this event is reported by Bukhārī in the very first chapter of his book. Then the revelation stopped for some time. Speaking of this temporary break in the revelation [termed as *fatrat-ul-wahy*], Sayyidnā Jabir رضى الله عنه reports that the

Messenger of Allah ﷺ said in his narrative:

"Whilst I was walking along, I heard a voice from heaven and I raised up my eyes. Lo! The Angel that had appeared to me in Ḥirā' was sitting on a chair between heaven and earth, and I was struck with awe on account of him and returned home and said, Wrap me up, wrap me up [*zammilūnī, zammilūnī*]. Then Allah revealed the first five verses of Sūrah Al-Muddththir (chapter 74)." [Bukhārī and Muslim]

According to this narrative, the Holy Prophet ﷺ is affectionately addressed as 'O you, enveloped in a mantle,' whereas in this Sūrah he is addressed as 'O you wrapped up in clothes'. Both forms of address are used affectionately and endearingly to console him. The latter title of address '*muzzammil*' as it appears in this Sūrah could probably be connected to another incident (referred to in the footnote) but it, nonetheless, shows deep love and affection for the Holy Prophet ﷺ. [Rūḥ-ul-Ma'ānī]. Having addressed him with this special title, the Holy Prophet ﷺ is told in the following verses that praying to Allah in the stillness of night [*ṣalāt-ut-tahajjud*] will prepare him for the heavy task entrusted to him. Some details of the night-prayer have also been set out.

### **Injunctions Pertaining to *Ṣalāt-ut-Tahajjud* and its Abrogation**

Reading into the titles *muzzammil* and *muddaththir* a consensus of scholarly opinion assigns the revelation of this Surah to the earliest period when the five daily prayers had not become obligatory. They were prescribed on the night of Holy Prophet's ﷺ Ascent to heavens. [*mi'rāj*].

Imām Baghawī رحمه الله تعالى says, on the basis of *Ahadith* reported by Sayyidah 'Ā'ishah Ṣiddiqah رضي الله عنها and others, that 'night-prayer' was compulsory for the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the entire Muslim community until the five prayers were not prescribed.

This verse not only prescribes the night-prayer but it also prescribes to stand up in prayer from at least one quarter of the night, because the verse under comment basically commanded to stand up all night to pray except a little portion of it.

Imām Baghawī رحمه الله تعالى says, on the basis of narration of *Aḥādīth*, that the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the noble Companions رضي الله عنهم, in compliance with this command, spent the major portion of the night in *tahajjud*, so

much so that their feet would swell and this exertion caused hardship and difficulty to them. This situation continued for a year. After that, towards the end of the Sūrah, the following injunction was revealed:

فَاقْرَأْهُ وَمَا تيسَّرَ مِنْهُ

'...Therefore, recite as much of it as is easy\_\_[73:20]

It repealed the obligation of staying up for a long time, and granted them concession and permission to stay up for prayer as much as they could easily manage. This is transmitted by Abū Dāwūd and Nasa'ī on the authority of Sayyidah 'Ā'ishah رضى الله عنها. Sayyidnā Ibn 'Abbās ؓ says that when the five prescribed prayers became obligatory on the night of *mi'rāj*, the obligatory nature of *tahajjud* was abrogated. It was, however, retained as *sunnah*, because the Holy Prophet ﷺ performed it most regularly. Most of the blessed Companions ؓ were regular with their *tahajjud* as well. [Mazharī] Let us now analyze the wordings of the verses.

فَمِ اللَّيْلِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا 'stand at night (for prayer) except a little\_\_[73:2]'. The word *al-lail* with the definite article 'al' connotes 'the entire night', signifying that he should stay up the whole night for prayer except a little portion of it. As the word 'little' is indefinite, the verse further clarifies:

أَوْزِدْ عَلَيْهِ [3] نِصْفَهُ أَوْ انْقُصْ مِنْهُ قَلِيلًا 'half of it, or make it a little less, [3] or أَوْزِدْ عَلَيْهِ make it a little more [73:4]'. This is explicative of the exception 'except a little'. A question may be raised here that 'a little' cannot be 'half'. The answer is that the earlier portion of the night is spent in the prayer at *maghrib* and '*ishā'*'. 'Half' then refers to the half of the rest of the night. Its total in relation to the whole night amounts to 'a little'. The verse permits to reduce it a little less than half and it also permits to add to it a little more than half. Thus it was compulsory to stay up at least for a little over one fourth of a night for prayer.

وَرَتَّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا '...and recite the Qur'ān clearly with *tartīl* (in a distinct and measured tone). [73:4]'. The word *tartīl*, according to Imām Rāghib as explicated in *al-Mufradāt*, originally means 'to put together and arrange well the component parts of a word and speech and make it distinct'. The purport of the verse is to say that the Qur'ān must not be recited in haste, but in a leisurely manner, distinctly, deliberately and in well-measured tone. At the same time, it is necessary to reflect on its meaning and

message. [Maẓharī]. The clause *wa rattil* is grammatically conjoined to *qumil lail* and signifies what is required to be done in tahajjud prayer. Although it comprises many components like *tasbīḥ*, *rukū'* (bowing), *sujud* (prostration) and so on, the verse indicates that the basic component of prayer is recitation of the Qur'ān. The authentic Traditions bear testimony to the fact that the *tahajjud* prayer of the Holy Prophet ﷺ used to be prolonged very much. The noble Companions and their pupils followed the same pattern.

### Ruling [1]

The verse under comment clarifies that the recitation of the Qur'ān is required to be with *tartīl* [distinct recitation in well-measured tone]. The Holy Prophet's ﷺ recitation fulfilled the requirements of *tartīl*. Some people inquired from Sayyidah 'Umm Salamah رضى الله عنها about the Holy Prophet's ﷺ recitation of Qur'ān in night-prayers. She emulated his recitation in which every single letter was clear and distinct. [Tirmidhī, Abū Dāwūd, Nasa'ī - as quoted by Maẓharī].

### Ruling [2]

*Tartīl* includes slow rhythmic recitation and beautification of the voice while reciting. Sayyidnā Abū Hurairah ؓ narrates that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Allah does not listen to any recitation as much as he listens to the recitation of a Prophet who recites with a beautiful voice." [Maẓharī].

Sayyidnā 'Alqamah ؓ saw a person reciting with a beautiful voice and he exclaimed:

لقد رتل القرآن فداه ابى وأمى

"He has recited the Qur'an with *tartīl*: May my parents be sacrificed to him!" [Qurṭubī].

In short, *tartīl* basically signifies that the letters and the words must be pronounced clearly and distinctly that will help understanding the Qur'ān, and paying due care to its meaning. Ḥasan al-Baṣrī رحمه الله تعالى reports that Allah's Messenger ﷺ passed by a person who was reciting a verse of the Qur'ān and weeping. He said to the people, 'Have you heard of the command of Allah' *وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلاً* '...and recite the Qur'ān clearly with *tartīl* (in a distinct and measured tone). [73:4]?' This is *tartīl* which this person is doing. [Qurṭubī]

إِنَّا سَنُلْقِي عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا ثَقِيلًا ('We are going to send down to you a weighty discourse... 73:5) The word *thaqīl* means 'heavy' and the phrase 'weighty discourse' refers to the Qur'ān, because the Qur'ānic teachings of lawful and unlawful are permanently binding and carrying them out is the weightiest task for human nature, except those for whom Allah makes it easier. According to oft-quoted *Aḥādīth*, whenever a revelation descended upon the Holy Prophet ﷺ, he went into a trance and felt a peculiar sensation, so that even on an extremely cold day drops of sweat fell from his forehead, and he felt his body has become heavier. The Qur'ānic revelation being 'a weighty discourse', his paroxysm was due to this sensation. If the Holy Prophet ﷺ received revelation while he was on his riding animal, it would begin to move the bottom of its neck intensely. [Bukhārī and others].

The verse under comment prescribes *tahajjud* prayer on man, so that he may become accustomed to the difficulty of waking at night. This is a struggle against excess sleep and comfort of the carnal self. This exercise will make it easier to abide by the injunctions contained in the 'weighty discourse', that is, the Holy Qur'ān.

إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ ('Truly, rising by night [for prayer of *tahajjud*] is the most effective way to subdue (one's self) and to make speech more upright.... 73:6). The word *nāshi'ah*, on the grammatical measure of *'āfiyah*, is an infinitive noun which signifies 'to rise by night for prayer'. Sayyidah 'Ā'ishah رضى الله عنها said that *nāshi'at-ul-lail* means 'to rise by night for night-prayer after sleeping'. According to this definition, *nāshi'at-ul-lail* refers to *tahajjud* prayer. Furthermore, the word *tahajjud* itself, literally, means 'to sleep at night and then wake up to perform the prayer'. Ibn Kaisān رحمه الله تعالى has said that prayer at the later part of the night is called *nāshi'at-ul-lail*. Ibn Zaid رحمه الله تعالى says that performing prayer at any part of the night is *nāshi'at-ul-lail*. Ḥasan al-Baṣrī رحمه الله تعالى says that any prayer after the 'Ishā' prayer is *nāshi'at-ul-lail*. Ibn Abī Mulaikah رحمه الله تعالى says that he asked Sayyidnā Ibn 'Abbās and Ibn Zubair رضي الله عنهما about the meaning of *nāshi'at-ul-lail*, they replied as follows: الأيل كلها ناشئة (The entire night is *nāshi'ah*." - Maḥzarī)

There is no conflict in these interpretations. The point is that the terms *nāshi'ah* of the night and *qiyām* of the night are general, and may refer to any hour of night. Thus the two terms apply equally to

performing night-prayer in any part of the night, especially the one performed after 'Ishā' prayer as explained by Sayyidnā Ḥasan al-Baṣrī رحمه الله تعالى. However, the constant practice of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, that of the overwhelming majority of the Companions and their pupils, and that of the righteous predecessors of the 'Ummah was that they performed this prayer in the later part of the night after waking from sleep, and therefore it is more virtuous, more meritorious and attracts more blessings. Performing any *nafl* [voluntary] prayer after 'Ishā' prayer fulfills the *sunnah* requirement of *nashi'ah* of the night and *qiyām* of the night.

هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْأً (...is the most effective way to subdue (one's self) and to make speech more upright... 73:6). The word *waṭ'an*, with the letter *waw* carrying *fathḥ* [=a], is an infinitive which means 'to subdue' or 'to suppress'. Given this meaning, the sense is that this time of night helps one to suppress his evil desires and keep them under control. This meaning is adopted by Maulānā Ashraf Alī Thānawī رحمه الله تعالى, and the translation of the text is based on this interpretation. In another *qirā'ah* (version), however, the word is pronounced '*wiṭā'an*'. It is an infinitive that means 'to conform'. On another occasion in the Qur'ān, we come across the following verse wherein a verb derived from this root is contained. The word in that verse is used in the same sense, thus:

لِيُؤَاطِفُوا عِدَّةَ مَا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ

'...so that they may conform (only) to the number of what Allah has sanctified - [9:37]'

Leading authorities on Tafsīr, like Ibn Zaid and Ibn 'Abbās رضي الله عنهما, have interpreted the word in the same sense here. Ibn Zaid رضي الله عنه said that getting up in the night for prayer is the most effective means of making the heart, eye, ear and tongue to mutually correspond and conform. Ibn 'Abbās رضي الله عنه said that the phrase means that during this time there is the closest degree of conformity and harmony between the ear and the heart. This is because there is no noise at the time of night when most people are asleep and one will not be disturbed as one is during the daytime. At night time when the tongue recites the Qur'ān, the ears will be conducive to listening to the recitation with due concentration, and the heart will be conducive to understanding and considering its meaning and message .



وَاقْوَمُ قِيَالًا (And to make speech more upright - 73:6) The word *aqwām* means 'more upright'. The verse signifies that the recitation of the Qur'an is more upright and concentrated, because during the night there are no noises and commotion to distract the heart or the mind.

In sum, the purport of the verse is to put forward the wisdom underlying the injunction of the 'night-prayer' for the common people. The preceding verse put forward its wisdom for the Holy Prophet ﷺ:

إِنَّا سَنُلْقِيْ عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا ثَقِيْلًا

'We are going to send down to you a weighty discourse.[73:5]'

The 'weighty discourse' was concerned specifically with the Holy Prophet ﷺ as it was revealed to him. But for common people, Night-Prayer has two characteristics: [1] bringing harmony between the heart and the tongue; and [2] peace of mind - making it easier to recite the Qur'an.

إِنَّ لَكَ فِي النَّهَارِ سَبْحًا طَوِيْلًا (Surely, in daytime, you have a lengthy work to do... 73:7). The word *sabḥun*, literally means, 'to flow, walk or move about' from which we also get the sense 'of swimming in the water' because when a swimmer swims in the water, he moves about in it freely without any obstruction. Here the word signifies 'long chain of engagements in the day' which refers to multifarious duties to be performed with alacrity, such as educating the people, preaching to them, reforming humanity, performing domestic chores, discharging social responsibilities and moving about to many other tasks and obligations .

The current verse explicates the third point of wisdom as to why night-prayer was enjoined. This relates both to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the general body of the Muslim community. During the day the Holy Prophet ﷺ as well as other people have a long chain of engagements for which they disperse and move about as explained in the foregoing paragraph. As a result, it is difficult for them to concentrate on their worshipping activity. The night should be reserved for this purpose. A person should sleep according to his need and perform his night-prayer as well.

### A Special Note

Jurists have said that the verse under comment confirms that scholars

and saintly guides, who are engaged in the service of education, training and human reform, should render their services during the day. It is better to reserve the night for Divine worship and devotional activities. The practice of the righteous scholars and predecessors bear testimony to this fact. If a temporary need arises to serve the cause of education and propagation at night, it may be carried out to the degree of necessity, but this would be an exception. The practice of many scholars and jurists confirm this exception .

وَادْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ وَتَبَتَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَبْتِيلًا (And remember the name of your Lord, and devote yourself to Him with exclusive devotion... 73:8). The word *tabattul*, literally, means 'to cut off oneself from entire creation to focus attention solely on the Creator to detach oneself from worldly things and devote oneself exclusively and sincerely to the service of Allah' The sentence: وَادْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ (And remember the name of your Lord...73:8) is grammatically conjoined to the sentence: قُمْ اللَّيْلَ (Stand at night [for prayer].... 73:2) which enjoins upon the Holy Prophet ﷺ to perform the night-prayer, and incidentally his attention is drawn in the following verse to special devotional activities in the course of the day: إِنَّ لَكَ فِي النَّهَارِ سَبْحًا طَوِيلًا 'Surely, in daytime, you have a lengthy work to do. [73:7]' But the verse 8 enjoins a devotional activity (remembering Allah) that can be performed at any time of day or night. In fact, it can be performed at all times and under all circumstances. Since it is inconceivable that the Holy Prophet ﷺ would never remember Allah, the purport of enjoining *Dhikr* (Remembrance of Allah) is to emphasise 'keeping to it consistently' in the sense that there should be no laxity in it. [Mazharī]. This is possible only if 'remembering Allah' is taken in its widest possible sense to include 'Reciting His name with tongue', 'Remembrance by heart' and also 'keeping one's body engaged in complying with the commands of Allah'. A narration of Sayyidah 'Ā'ishah Şiddīqah رضى الله عنها reports the following:

كَانَ يَذْكُرُ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ حِينٍ

"The Holy Prophet ﷺ used to remember Allah at all times."

This Ḥadīth is correct in terms of the wider concept of 'remembrance of Allah' just explained above. Obviously, the Holy Prophet ﷺ did not make *dhikr* by his tongue when answering the call of nature as Aḥādīth distinctly confirm this, but *Dhikr* by heart is possible at all times. There

are, however, two types of *Dhikr* by heart: [1] It may be done through 'imagined words'; [2] by reflecting and pondering on the Divine attributes of perfection. [Shaikh Thanawī].

The next injunction in this verse is:

تَبَتَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَبْتِيلًا ..and devote yourself to Him with exclusive devotion. [73:8]. In other words, the Holy Prophet ﷺ is to detach himself from worldly things and devote himself exclusively and sincerely to Allah. The general import of the verse imparts the injunction that when worshipping Allah, no partners should be associated with Him and the total worship and devotion should be solely for Him. In all his actions and movements, he should single out Allah for reliance. He should not take any creature as possessing the power of benefit and harm or as possessing the power of granting wishes and solving problems. Sayyidnā Ibn Zaid رضي الله عنه said that *tabattul* signifies 'to abandon the world and what is in it and focus attention on what is with Allah'. [Maḥzarī]. The *tabattul* which this verse enjoins is completely different from the concept and practice of monasticism which the Qur'ān denounces elsewhere, thus:

وَرَهْبَانِيَّةً ابْتَدَعُوهَا

'...As for monasticism, it was invented by them\_\_ [57:27]'

and a Ḥadīth denounces it thus:

لا رهبانية في الاسلام

"There is no monasticism in Islam."

*Rahbāniyyah* or 'monasticism', in the technical language of Shari'ah, signifies 'to abandon the world and sever all ties which involves the giving up of all pleasures and all lawful and pure things, believing that doing so is 'worship' and thinking that without avoiding them one would not be able to attain the good pleasure of Allah. It also means to sever human relationships in such a manner that human rights are not taken care of or they are violated. This verse enjoins a different type of *tabattul* or severance of relationship. It means that one's relationship with human beings should not overpower his relationship with Allah - whether in terms of belief or in terms of practice. Such a detachment is not contradictory to any business relations, or social contracts and transactions, like marriage and family ties. In fact, they can be combined. *Tabattul*, in this sense, is the characteristic of all Prophets عليهم السلام,

especially that of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ. Their lives bear ample testimony to this type of *tabattul* which the pious elders alternatively term as *Ikhlāṣ* (sincerity). [Maḥzarī]

### An Important Note

In the matter of 'Allah's Remembrance' and 'detachment from the world', the venerable Ṣūfīs, whether belonging to the earlier generation or later generation, have always been forward. They said that there are only two steps with which they are exerting their effort to cover the distance and conquer the path day and night. The first step is to detach themselves from the creation and the second step is to reach Allah [i.e. their destination]. The two steps are inseparable, in that where one is operational the other must operate; and if one does not operate, the other will not operate either. The two steps have been stated as two conjoined sentences, thus: *وَأَذْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ وَتَبَتَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَبْتِيلًا* 'And remember the name of your Lord, and devote yourself to Him with exclusive devotion. [73:8]'. In this context, *dhikr* Allah refers to constant Remembrance of Allah where there should be no failing, and at no time there should be forgetfulness. This *maqām* 'station' in Ṣūfī terminology is referred to as *wuṣūl ila-Allah* 'reaching out to Allah. The first statement states the second step and the second statement states the first step. Thus the statements state the order in reverse probably because in practice *tabattul*, in the sense given above, is prior to *wuṣūl ila-Allah* which is achieved after the operation of the former. The main object of a *sālik* (the spiritual traveller) is to achieve the second step, therefore the naturally occurring order has been changed and remembrance of Allah has been mentioned first. This also is meant to show the importance and virtue of remembrance of Allah. How well Shaikh Sa'dī رحمه الله تعالى has versified the two steps:

تعلق حجاب است وے حاصلی.....☆.....چو پیوند ہا بُگسلی واصلی

Worldly relationship is a barrier and brings no (eternal) benefit.  
When you abandon these relations, you will be the one who reaches out to Allah.

### Remembrance of Allah through Repetition of His Personal Name

The verse under comment whilst enjoining *dhikrullah* (remembrance of Allah) has referred to it as 'remembrance of the name of Allah by saying: *وَأَذْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ* 'And remember the name of your Lord - [73:8]' and not *وَأَذْكُرْ رَبِّكَ* 'And remember your Lord'.

This indicates that the repetition of Allah's personal name 'Allah, Allah' is also desired and required form of *dhikr* and worship. [Maḏharī]. Some scholars say that such repetition of His personal name is an 'innovation' (*bid'ah*), but this opinion is not correct. And Allah knows best!

رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا (He is the Lord of the East and the West; there is no god but He; so take Him for [your] Guardian...73:9). The word *wakīl*, lexicologically, refers to a 'person who has been given a task to do'. 'To take Allah as guardian' means that all matters and affairs should be entrusted to Allah. Technically, this is called *tawakkul* 'trust'.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ is given several injunctions in this Sūrah. This is the fifth injunction. Imām Ya'qūb Karkhī رحمه الله تعالى says that from the beginning of the Sūrah up to this verse there is reference to the *maqāmāt sulūk* 'journeying or a methodical travelling along the spiritual path through the various states and stations under the direction of a spiritual master or adept'. The references are as follows: [1] solitude at night to worship Allah; [2] preoccupation with Qur'an; [3] constant Remembrance of Allah; [4] severance of relationship with "everything-other-than-Allah, and [5] total trust in Allah. Preceding the last injunction about trust, Allah's attribute is given, thus: رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ 'He is the Lord of the East and the West\_\_[73:9]'. In other words, Allah is the Cherisher and Sustainer of the entire universe. He is responsible to fulfill the needs of all from the beginning to the end. He alone can assist in all matters. Just as He has been singled out for worship, so should He be singled out for reliance, and full trust must be put in Him. Anyone who trusts and relies on Allah will never be deprived of his needs as the Qur'an puts it:

وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ

'...And whoever places his trust in Allah, He is sufficient for him. \_\_[65:3]'

### The Correct Concept of *Tawakkul* [Trust]

Trust in Allah does not imply for anyone to avoid the apparent means of acquiring livelihood, or giving up the normal ways of saving oneself from any affliction. The ways and means that Allah has created for a particular purpose should not be abandoned while placing total trust in Allah. On the contrary, in order to achieve our purpose it is necessary for

us to utilize the God-given power and causes at our disposal to the fullest extent, but we should not repose blind faith in material causes and means. But having adopted actions of choice, the result should then be left with Allah whose will is the Ultimate Cause of everything.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ himself has explained *tawakkul* in this way. Imām Baghawī, in his *Sharḥ-us-Sunnah*, and Baihaqī, in his *Shu'ab-ul-Īmān*, have cited the following Ḥadīth:

ان نفسا لن تموت حتى تستكمل رزقها، الا فاتتقوا الله واجملوا في الطلب

"Jibra'īl عليه السلام has inspired me with the thought that no person will ever die until he receives, in full, his sustenance that Allah has decreed for him. Therefore, fear Allah and be moderate in your search."

In other words, we should not be over-absorbed in quest for our needs so deeply that the attention of the heart is totally focused on the material causes and means. Instead, after adopting the ways and means to fulfill our needs, we should repose our total trust in and reliance upon Allah in the sense that without His will, no cause can bring any effect.

Tirmidhī transmits a Ḥadīth on the authority of Sayyidnā Abū Dharr Al-Ghifārī رضي الله عنه that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said: "*Zuhd* (Renunciation of the world) does not mean to turn lawful things into unlawful or squander the wealth Allah has given you. Renunciation of the world means to have more faith in the things that are in Allah's hands than what are in your hands." [Maḏharī]

وَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَاهْجُرْهُمْ هَجْرًا جَمِيلًا (And bear patiently what they say, and part with them in a beautiful manner...73:10). According to Imām Karkhī رحمه الله تعالى, this is the sixth injunction given to the Holy Prophet ﷺ that he should bear with patience and fortitude the jibes, opposition and persecution of his enemies. Perfect patience is the supreme station of *sulūk* (methodical travelling along the spiritual path). Spiritual reformers expend their entire strength, energy and life in reforming the deviant people. In return, they have to hear vile language, they are persecuted and wronged in many different ways. In return, they exercise *ṣabr* (patience) in a beautiful manner. In other words, they do not even entertain the thought of revenge. This is the supreme station, which in Sūfī terminology, is attained only after *fanā' kāmīl*: 'complete negation of

selfish desires'.

وَاهْجُرْهُمْ هَجْرًا جَمِيلًا (...and part with them in a beautiful manner...73:10). The word *hajr*, literally, denotes 'to give up something in a state of grief, anger and temper'. The verse means that rejecters of Truth utter words that hurt. He should not take revenge, but maintain no relations with them either. At the time of severing relations, it is natural for man to utter words of complaint and disgust. Therefore, Allah's Messenger ﷺ is told to cut off relations with the rejecters of Truth, but he must maintain his dignity and integrity. Hence, the verse contains the grammatically restricted cognate accusative, *hajran jamīlan*, 'in a beautiful manner'. The high status and the exalted standard of character require that the Holy Prophet ﷺ should restrain himself from making any abusive remarks at the deniers of Truth.

Some scholars of Tafsīr say that the injunction of this verse is repealed by verses of *jihād* which were revealed later on. But a careful analysis indicates that the injunction is not repealed. The above verses enjoin patience and steadfastness in the face of what the enemies say and cutting off from them courteously. This is not in conflict with verses that deal with reproof, punishment and armed struggle that were revealed subsequently. The injunction of this verse is applicable at all times and under all circumstances, whereas *jihād* is reproof and punishment, and is a specific injunction to be applied under specific conditions. Islamic *jihād* and armed struggle is not a matter of taking revenge or expression of anger, which could be in conflict with patience and fortitude or courteous severance. It is purely acting on the Divine command as is patience and courteous severance under general circumstances. Up to this point the Holy Prophet ﷺ was commanded to be steadfast and to abstain from revenge. The next verse, reprimands the deniers of Truth that instead of being grateful to Allah for "ease and plenty" provided for them, they reject the Divine Message:

وَدَرْنِي وَالْمُكَذِّبِينَ أُولِي النَّعْمَةِ وَمَهَلْهُمْ قَلِيلًا (And leave Me [to deal] with the deniers, the people of luxury, and give them respite for a while....73:11). The 'deniers' are referred to as 'the people of luxury'. The word *na'mah*, the first letter [n] bearing *fath* [=a], signifies 'ease and plenty; abundance of wealth and children'. This indicates that people who live a life of ease, plenty and luxury can only be the ones who deny the Hereafter. These

things do often fall to the lot of the believers, but they do not intoxicate them. Therefore, even when they live a life of luxury, their hearts are never, at any time, empty of the thought of the Hereafter. Only the deniers of the Hereafter will live a life of luxury that is neglectful of the Hereafter.

إِنَّ لَدَيْنَا أَنْكَالًا وَجَحِيمًا وَطَعَامًا ذَا غُصَّةٍ وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا (Surely with Us are fetters and flaming fire, and food that chokes, and a painful punishment...73:12-13). The terrible punishment of the Hereafter is described in these verses. First, there is the mention of *ankāl* which is the plural of *nakāl*. It denotes 'fetter, chain, shackle'. Then, there is the mention of 'flaming fire'. Then, verse [13] describes the 'choking food' the inmates of Hell will be given to eat.

The word *ghuṣṣah* literally denotes 'a thing by which one is choked'. For example, a morsel may block the throat in such a way as it can neither be swallowed nor can it be brought up. The inmates of Hell will be given *ḍarī'* and *zaqqūm* (thorny fruits) to eat. These fruits fit the description.

Sayyidnā Ibn 'Abbās رضي الله عنه said: "In it will be thorns of fire that will choke." [God save us!]. The verse says in conclusion: وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا (...and a painful punishment...73:13).

Having described specific forms of punishment, this description is general - indicating that there will be many more horrible and terrible forms of punishment which man cannot even imagine. [O Allah, save us from all forms of punishment!]

### The Righteous Elders' Fear of the Hereafter

Imām Aḥmad, Ibn Abī Dāwūd, Ibn 'Adīyy and Baihaqī record a narration that a person heard this verse and fell fainted. One day Ḥasan al-Baṣrī رحمه الله تعالى was fasting. When the food was brought to him at the time of *ifṭār* (ending the fast), this verse occurred in his mind and he could not eat. As a result, he sent it away. The following day he was fasting again. The same thing happened in the evening and he sent the food away. On the third day the same thing happened. So, his sons went to Thābit Bunānī, Yazīd Ḍabbāī, and Yaḥyā Al-Bakkā' and recounted the story. All three personalities went to Ḥasan and insisted on his eating something. At their insistence, the latter ate a little. [Rūḥ-ul-Ma'ānī]



يَوْمَ تَرُجُّفُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ وَكَانَتِ الْجِبَالُ كَثِيبًا مَهِيلاً ﴿١٤﴾ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ  
رَسُولًا لَا شَاهِدًا عَلَيْكُمْ كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ رَسُولًا ﴿١٥﴾ فَعَصَىٰ فِرْعَوْنُ الرَّسُولَ  
فَأَخَذْنَاهُ أَخْدًا وَبَيًّا ﴿١٦﴾ فَكَيْفَ تَتَّقُونَ إِن كَفَرْتُمْ يَوْمًا يَجْعَلُ الْوِلْدَانَ شِيبًا ﴿١٧﴾

(on the Day when the earth and the mountains will quake, and the mountains will turn into a slipping heap of sand. [14] We have sent to you a messenger, as a witness over you, just as We sent a messenger to Fir'aun (the Pharaoh). [15] Then, Fir'aun disobeyed the messenger; so We seized him with a severe seizure. [16] So, if you disbelieve, how will you save yourself from a day that will turn the small boys into grey-headed old men...17).

These verses describe the horrors and terrors of the Day of Resurrection. Verse [14] describes that the punishment will take place on the Day when the earth and mountains will shake and the mountains will be reduced to a heap of dust or shifting dunes. Thereafter, reference is made to the story of Mūsā عليه السلام and Fir'aun in order to threaten the pagans of Makkah. Allah sent a Messenger, Muḥammad ﷺ, to bear witness against the pagans of Makkah just as He sent a Messenger, Mūsā عليه السلام, to Fir'aun. But Fir'aun disobeyed Mūsā عليه السلام and Allah seized him with terrible severity right in this world. Likewise, if the pagans of Makkah persist stubbornly in their pagan conduct, they too can be seized similarly with terrible severity in this very world. Towards the conclusion, the verse says that if no torment is inflicted in this world, no one can escape the horrors and terrors and length of the Day of Resurrection that will turn the children grey. This could be a metaphor for the most calamitous happenings which bring about disastrous changes. But some scholars say that this is a description of reality, in that the Day of Resurrection will be so long that a little child will grow old. [Qurṭubī and Rūh].

### The Obligatory Nature of Tahajjud Prayer Abrogated

At the beginning of the Sūrah, the command 'stand at night (for prayer)' prescribed the night-prayer for Allah's Messenger as well as for the general body of Muslims. It was also obligatory for the prayer to be long, but they had a choice in its length. They had to pray for half the night or one-third of the night or two-thirds of the night. A group of noble Companions in the performance of this duty mostly followed the 'azīmah (preferred original rule of law). As a result, they spent almost two-thirds

of the night in prayer. They performed this prayer every night. During the day they would invite people to Islam and preach and attend to their personal needs. Most of the Companions were either labourers or businessmen. The Messenger's as well as the Companions' feet would swell on account of the long prayers. Waking at night was extremely difficult, and Allah was fully aware of the entire set-up, but it was pre-decreed in His knowledge that the difficulty is temporary and a passing phase. The purpose of this exercise is *riyāḍah* 'ascetic discipline' of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and his Companions. In the initial stages, they were in a condition of disequilibrium. Therefore, they were required to exert themselves in spiritual struggle and ascetic discipline, thus:

إِنَّا سَنُلْقِيْكَ عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا ثَقِيْلًا 'We are going to send down to you a weighty discourse. [73:5]'. The Holy Prophet ﷺ was going to be handed over the service of the Qur'ān which is much more difficult than this ascetic discipline. According to the Pre-eternal knowledge of Allah, when the ascetic discipline was completed and with His grace perfect balance was attained, asceticism was replaced by moderation. As a result, the obligatory nature of night-prayer was repealed. According to Ibn 'Abbās رضي الله عنه, the above verses merely cancelled the obligatory nature of night-prayer, but the basic *tahajjud* prayer remained intact as obligatory. When the five daily prayers were prescribed on the night of *mi'rāj*, the obligatory nature of *tahajjud* prayer too was cancelled. And Allah knows best!

Apparently, this obligation was cancelled for Allah's Messenger as well as for the entire 'Ummah. However, it is still a supererogatory and laudable deed in the sight of Allah. Furthermore, there is no time or recitation constraint. Every person may perform the prayer according to his own ability in the time available to him and recite the Qur'ān as much of it as is easy for him .

### **The Concept of Abrogation in Shari'ah**

Legislating laws and abrogating them to proclaim new ones in their place is a routine practice in human governments and institutions. However, abrogation occurs sometimes in a piece of human legislation because the legislators did not fully comprehend the situation at the time of formulating a certain law, and are forced to amend it when they realize that the situation has changed and the law is no longer applicable in the

new circumstances. At other times, a law might be proclaimed in the government gazette in keeping with the prevailing circumstances, but the legislators might not have foreseen that the circumstances might change. When that happens, the old law will have to be repealed and a new one will have to be legislated and promulgated. It is inconceivable that these two forms of repeal will ever apply to Divine injunctions.

A third situation is that when the legislator formulates a law, he foresees that in time to come conditions will change, as a result the law will no longer apply *in toto* in the changed condition. So, when the conditions alter, as the legislator had foreseen, he legislates a new law and makes it public as he had forethought. This is the only form of abrogation that can take place, and has been taking place in Divine injunctions. It has always been the case that a certain piece of Divine law was intended, from the very beginning, to remain in force for a limited time, but Divine Wisdom chose not to disclose this time limit from the people. Because of the general wordings of the legislation, the general community of people thought it was an immutable law whereas Allah had pre-decreed it as a temporary law for a limited period of time. When its temporary period was over, the law was withdrawn. People took this as the abrogation of law whereas in reality it merely defined the time period. In other words, at that time it is made publicly known to the people that the law was not an immutable one, but promulgated for a limited period of time. Thus the period is now over and the law is no longer applicable.

There are many verses of the Qur'an that have been repealed, and the commoners find it difficult to grasp the wisdom underlying the repeal, but the foregoing explanation should allay the difficulty. However, the question remains: Was *tahajjud* prayer specially obligatory on the Holy Prophet ﷺ after the verse under comment was revealed? Some scholars of Tafsir answer it in the affirmative and they base their argument on the following verse:

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ

'And during the night, wake up for *Ṣalāh*, an additional prayer for you [17:79]'

This verse prescribes *tahajjud* as an additional prayer specially for the

Holy Prophet ﷺ. The word *nāfilah* literally denotes 'additional', meaning 'additional obligation'. But according to the overwhelming majority, the correct view is that the obligatory nature of *tahajjud* prayer has been abrogated for Allah's Messenger, as well as the general body of Muslims. However, it still remains an act of supererogation for all. The above verse contains the phrase *نَافِلَةٌ لَّكَ nāfilatan lak* 'an additional prayer for you'. The word *nāfilah* is used in its technical sense of *nafl* 'supererogatory'. If *tahajjud* is a *nafl* prayer for all, then it is not clear why addressing the Holy Prophet ﷺ the verse adds *lak* 'for you' as if it is a distinctively voluntary act for the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Please see Ma'āriful Qur'ān, Vol. 5/pp533-543 for fuller explanation, especially pp536-537 for whether *tahajjud* is a mere *nafl* (voluntary) or *sunnah mu'akkadah* (the emphasised practice of the Holy Prophet ﷺ)

The verse that abrogates the obligatory nature of *tahajjud* prayer starts from -

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ

'Your Lord knows\_\_ [73:20]'

and ends at - '...Now, recite as much of the Qur'ān as is easy (for you) [73:20]' This verse was revealed one year or eight months after the initial verses of this Sūrah. Thus the obligatory nature of night-prayer was abrogated after a year. Musnad of Aḥmad, Muslim, Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Mājah and Nasa'ī record a narration of Sayyidah 'Ā'ishah رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى who stated that at the commencement of this Sūrah, Allah had prescribed the night-prayer. The Messenger of Allah and the blessed Companions constantly and consistently carried out the obligation for a year. Allah held back the last part of the Sūrah in the sky for twelve months. It was revealed after a year which abrogated the obligatory status of night-prayer and made concession - reducing its status to supererogation. [Rūḥ-ul-Ma'ānī]

عَلِمَ أَنْ لَنْ تُحْصُوهُ (...He knows that you cannot do it regularly...73:20). The word *iḥṣā'* literally denotes 'to count'. Some commentators interpret this verse as follows: Allah had not fixed the exact time for night-prayer. They were given the option of choosing time between one-third of the night to two thirds of it. But when the Companions were preoccupied with the prayer, it was difficult for them to calculate whether they had stayed up

half the night, or one-third of the night, or two-thirds of the night, because in those days there were no watches or clocks to measure the time. Even if there were, it was not in keeping with their conditions of involvement in prayers to look at the time repeatedly. They would be absorbed in their prayers, so as to be oblivious to their environment. This is the significance of the phrase *lan tuḥṣūhu*. Other scholars say that the word *iḥṣā'* connotes 'the act of counting', signifying that Allah knows that you will not be able to keep count of the constant prayers during the lengthy hours and hours of sleep. The word *iḥṣā'* is also used in this sense, as is used in a Ḥadīth in connection with the beautiful names of Allah, thus:

من احصاها دخل الجنة

"He who keeps count of them will enter Paradise"

meaning, to act fully according to the attributes and qualities of Allah, as indicated in His beautiful names. For fuller explanation, please see Ma'ariful Qur'an, Vol. 5/pp272-273 under the following verse:

وَأَنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ لَا تَحْصُوهَا

'...And if you count the bounties of Allah, you cannot count them all. [14:34]'

فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ (...therefore He turned to you in mercy...73:20). The word *taubah* originally means 'to turn'. Repentance for sins is also called *taubah* in Arabic, because the sinner turns away from his past sins and crimes. In this context, the word simply means 'to turn', that is, Allah took back the obligatory nature of the injunction of night-prayer. Then He says: فَاقْرءُوا مَا يَسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ (...Now, recite as much of the Qur'an as is easy ... 73:20). That is, recite in *tahajjud* prayer which is no longer obligatory. It is supererogatory enjoying the status of *sunnah* or *mustahab*. No particular number of verses has been fixed for recitation of the Holy Qur'an in *tahajjud* prayer. So a worshipper may recite as much of it as is easy for him. This verse answers many legal questions that are available in books of jurisprudence.

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَاقْرءُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا (And establish *ṣalāh*, and pay *zakāh*, and advance to Allah a goodly loan....73:20). According to majority of the commentators, *ṣalāh* in this context refers to the five prescribed

prayers that were made obligatory on the Night of Ascent (*Mir'āj*). This indicates that the night-prayer was obligatory for a year. In the meantime, the nocturnal journey took place, and the five daily prayers were prescribed. After that, the above verses were revealed and the obligatory nature of *tahajjud* prayer was abrogated. Towards the conclusion of the Sūrah, where it speaks of establishment of prayer, it refers to the five prescribed prayers. [Ibn Kathīr, Qurṭubī and Al-Baḥr-ul-Muḥīṭ].

وَأْتُوا زَكَاةً (...and pay zakah....73:20). *Zakāh* refers to the prescribed *zakāh*. However, it is popularly understood that *zakāh* was prescribed two years after migration to Madīnah whereas this verse is Makkī and, as was said earlier, a consensus of scholarly opinion assigns the revelation of this Sūrah to the earliest period of the call. In response, some commentators express the view that this particular verse was revealed in Madīnah. Ibn Kathīr, however, says that *zakāh* was prescribed in the earliest days of Islam, although its details, like exemption limit and the rate, were fixed in the second year of migration at Madīnah. Even if the verse is treated as Makkī, there should be no problem in taking the word *zakāh* in its technical sense of prescribed *zakāh* as Rūḥ-ul- Ma'ānī explains in detail. Its full analysis will be found in this author's booklet entitled '*Nizām-e-Zakāt*'.

وَأَقْرَضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا (...and advance to Allah a goodly loan....73:20). In other words, spend in the way of Allah as charitable donations. This would be as if one is advancing a loan to Allah who will multiply it many times and reward him most abundantly. This indicates Divine favour and grace towards him, and it also describes that Allah is the richest of all. The loan will not be lost, but will be richly returned. The command for *Zakāh* has already been mentioned previously, therefore advancing a loan to Allah refers, according to most scholars, to other voluntary charitable donations in the cause of Allah as, for instance, spending on friends and relatives or utilizing for entertainment of guests or investing in the service of scholars and righteous people. Some scholars point out that besides the prescribed *Zakāh*, there are other financial obligations imposed on man, such as maintenance of parents, wife and children. Thus the command to pay *zakāh* in verse 20 covers the injunction of paying out the prescribed *Zakāh*, while other financial obligations are covered by the

words: '...advance to Allah a goodly loan [20]'.  
 وَمَا تَقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ (...whatever good you will send ahead for your own selves [73:20]. In other words, if man does good in his lifetime, it is better for him than advising someone else to do the good deed at the time of his death. This advice for doing good on behalf of the deceased includes financial worship and voluntary charitable donations. It also includes prescribed prayers, fasts and other prescribed worship or duties that were missed out or neglected, it is better to pay out the *fiḍyah* and/or *kaffārah* with one's own hands while he is living and be absolved of the responsibility rather than expecting the heirs to discharge it. They may do it or they may neglect to do it .

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ once asked the blessed Companions: "Which of you holds his wealth to be dearer to himself than the wealth of his heirs?" They replied: "O Allah's Messenger, there is not a single one of us who does not hold his wealth to be dearer to himself than the wealth of his heir." Allah's Messenger then said: "Consider carefully what you are saying." They submitted: "This is indeed our considered opinion. We do not know any better." He then said: "The wealth of one of you is only that which he sends forth, and the wealth of his heir is that which he leaves behind." [Ibn Kathīr from Abū Ya'ālā al-Mawṣilī and said al-Bukhārī transmitted it, reporting from Ḥafṣ Ibn Ghiyāth and so on].

**Alḥamdulillāh**  
**The Commentary on**  
**Sūrah Al-Muzzammil**  
**Ends here**